

NATIONAL DRUG POLICY BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 18, 1987

Chairman Edwin Meese III convened the meeting of the National Drug Policy Board at 3:25 pm and circulated for acknowledgment the minutes of the February meeting.

1. Executive Order: The Chairman related that the Executive Order establishing the National Drug Policy Board is currently being reviewed by various departments and should soon be available for the President's signature. He reiterated the importance of the Executive Order in fusing under the Policy Board's oversight drug law enforcement and prevention programs.

ACTION: NONE

2. C³I Agreement: The Chairman announced that the Customs Service and U.S. Coast Guard on March 16th had reached an agreement over command and control of the Southeast C3I Center. Assistant Secretary of Treasury Francis Keating detailed the contents of that agreement which, the Chairman stated, does not preempt any further decisions or deliberations by the Policy Board regarding geographic or functional areas of responsibility, including lead agency issues.

ACTION: NONE

3. Reporting Requirements/Hearings: Legislative matters relating to the reporting requirements of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act and to upcoming Congressional hearings on drug-related topics were briefly addressed. Acting Staff Director Eloy Garcia commented upon the status of report submissions.

ACTION: The Chairman emphasized that accuracy and completeness of reports are paramount but that timeliness of submissions is certainly important. Concerning scheduled Congressional hearings, the Chairman stated that the Administration, the Policy Board and its members can take pride in advances made in drug law enforcement. He added that once a policy decision is formulated on enforcement issues, it is incumbent upon individual departments and agencies to speak with one voice in support of that policy.

4. Long-Range Surveillance Subcommittee: Mr. Chapman Cox, Assistant Secretary of Defense, offered a status report on the progress of the Long-Range Surveillance Subcommittee. Mr. Cox said that the Subcommittee was close to an agreement on a long-range surveillance mission statement and analysis of existing resources to determine the shortfall in assets to reach mission goals.

ACTION: The Long-Range Surveillance Subcommittee should continue its work. In addition, Mr. Cox's group should develop recommendations on the desired level of coverage and the allocation of resources to implement the recommendations.

5. Operation ALLIANCE: Mr. Keating made a presentation on Operation Alliance, tracing this southwest border initiative to stem the flow of drugs from Mexico into the U.S. from its inception in 1986. (Annexed to these minutes is a detailed "fact paper" on Operation Alliance distributed at the meeting to Policy Board members.).

ACTION: NONE

6. White House Conference: Dr. Donald Macdonald, Director, Alcohol Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration, provided an update on plans for the "White House Conference for a Drug Free America" scheduled for next September or October. He said that the President will select from 50 to 75 conferees, drawn from varied backgrounds in the public and private sectors, to discuss issues that he hopes will ultimately culminate in establishing in 1988 a national drug-demand strategy.

ACTION: NONE

7. INCSR: Ms. Ann Wroblewski, Assistant Secretary of State, gave a briefing on the submission to Congress of the International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR). She stated that the President had certified that 19 nations, previously identified as principal drug-source or transit countries, had either (in terms conforming to Anti-Drug Abuse Act requirements) "cooperated fully" or taken "adequate steps" to prevent drugs from being transported to the United States. Not certified were Afghanistan, Iran and Syria.

ACTION: NONE

8. Coordination Centers: The Chairman closed the meeting with a statement concerning the National C3I Center as envisioned in the Anti-Drug Abuse Act.

ACTION: The Chairman said that he had written Secretary Baker about having the Customs Service defer implementation plans pending review by the Coordinating Group and the Policy Board on how best to proceed on these, and related, issues regarding coordination centers.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.